

## Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, PL

SUBJECT: AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER

FROM RICHMOND

REF: WARSAW 6634

1. SUMMARY: WARSAW UNIVERSITY'S PLANS TO ESTABLISH AN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER WERE DISCUSSED WITH RECTOR RYBICKI AND VICE RECTORS RODEWALD AND KALUZYNSKI AT DINNER NOVEMBER 27 WITH PAO BALDYGA, CAO GOSENDE, AND RICHMOND (CU/EE). RYBICKI CONFIRMED THAT WARSAW IS EAGER TO PROCEED WITH PLANS OF ESTABLISH THE CENTER IN COOPERATION WITH AN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY AND HE URGED CARE IN SELECTING THE CENTER'S FIRST AMERICAN DIRECTOR.

2. THE DISCUSSION WHICH WAS FRANK, FRIENDLY, AND WIDE-RANGING, INDICATED CLEARLY THAT WARSAW IS SEEKING A PERMANENT AMERICAN PRESENC  
E

ON CAMPUS WHICH WILL SERVE AS A BASE FOR LECTURES, SEMINARS, AND PUBLIC MEETINGS IN A BROAD RANGE OF SUBJECTS RELATED TO THE U.S. AS WELL AS A CENTER FOR SCHOLARLY RESEARCH ON THE U.S. RYBICKI WANTS A CENTER SIMILAR TO THAT OPERATED BY THE FRENCH AT WARSAW U. FOR SEVERAL YEARS WHICH WOULD HAVE A CORE U.S. STAFF, BUT ALSO SPONSOR SHORT-TERM VISITS BY LEADING AMERICAN PERSONALITIES FROM PUBLIC AND CULTURAL, AS WELL AS ACADEMIC AFFAIRS. WHILE THE EXACT POLISH NAME FOR THE CENTER IS NOT YET FIRM, RYBICKI SPOKE OF A "CENTER FOR AMERICAN CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION." SPACE FOR  
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THE CENTER HAS BEEN RESERVED IN A NEW BUILDING BELOW THE MAIN

CAMPUS NEAR THE VISTULA RIVER THE BUILDING HOUSES  
THE UNIVERSITY'S INSTITUTE OF APPLIED LINGUISTICS, WHICH RYBICKI  
SAID "WOULD BE WORKING CLOSELY" WITH THE CENTER. RYBICKI ALSO  
INDICATED THAT DETAILED PLANS FOR THE CENTER'S OPERATIONS ARE NOT  
FIRM, BUT WOULD EVOLVE DURING THE INITIAL YEARS OF OPERATION.  
WHILE THIS MAY APPEAR SOME WHAT VAGUE, IT APPEARS TO BE THE BEST  
RYBICKI CAN PROVIDE UNDER CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES. WE SHOULD,  
HOWEVER, NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE VALUE AND POTENTIAL TO THE U.S. OF  
SUCH A CENTER, NOR THE ABILITY OF THE POLES TO EVOLVE A MORE DETAILED

PLAN OF OPERATION, BASED ON WHAT THE POLITICAL CLIMATE HERE WILL  
EVENTUALLY PERMIT.

3. MOST URGENT QUESTION IS U.S. STAFFING, WARSAW HAS AGREED TO  
ACCEPT DR. TIMOTHY WILES AS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR BUT HOPES FOR MORE  
SENIOR PERSON AD DIRECTOR. IN THIS RESPECT, RYBICKI REFERRED  
TO HIS DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE FRENCH CENTER'S DIRECTOR WHO HE  
SAID DOES NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT ACADEMIC STATURE TO WORK WITH HIS  
POLISH COLLEAGUES.

4. SUGGEST CU/EE ACTING DIRECTOR CALL DEAN WILSON AT INDIANA  
UNIVERSITY AND INFORM HIM OF WARSAW'S CONTINUED INTEREST AND  
ACCEPTANCE OF WILES. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE BEST IF WILES COULD  
REMAIN FOR TWO YEARS TO PROVIDE CONTINUITY DURING CENTER'S  
INITIAL YEARS, YOU SHOULD ALSO URGE WILSON TO RENEW HIS  
EFFORTS TO FIND A QUALIFIED CANDIDATE FOR DIRECTOR. THE  
CANDIDATE SHOULD BE A MORE SENIOR SCHOLAR WITH BROAD BACKGROUND  
IN AMERICAN STUDIES AND THE ABILITY AND DESIRE TO CONDUCT BOTH  
THE SCHOLARLY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMS WARSAW WANTS. THE  
DIRECTOR'S ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE NEED NOT BE THE DETERMINING FACTOR.  
MORE IMPORTANT IS THAT HE BE A PERSON OF MANY INTERESTS, OUTGOING  
PERSONALITY, AND ENTERPRISE IN RUNNING A PROGRAM SIMILAR TO THAT  
OF A BI-NATIONAL CENTER BERNARD SHEEHAN,  
IN OUR OPINION, DOES NOT MEET THESE REQUIREMENTS. FURTHERMORE,  
HIS FAMILY'S HOUSING AND SCHOOLING NEEDS WOULD ALSO SEEM TO  
ELIMINATE HIM FROM CONSIDERATION. IDEALLY, WE WOULD HOPE FOR  
CANDIDATE WITH SMALL FAMILY, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE WRSWAY HOUSING  
SITUATION AND AMERICAN SCHOOL LIMITATIONS (THROUGH 8TH GRADE  
ONLY), AND  
SOME PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE ABROAD.  
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6. AS MUCH AS WE ARE INTERESTED IN GETTING THE DIRECTOR ON BOARD  
BY SEPTMEBER, 1975, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE BETTER TO HAVE THE  
CENTER RUN BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR ONE YEAR, THAT TO HAVE  
THE WRONG PERSON APPOINTED HASTILY AS DIRECTOR. YOU SHOULD ALSO URGE  
WILSON TO LOOK BEYOND THE INDIANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM IF HE IS UNABLE  
TO FIND THE RIGHT PERSON WITHIN THE SYSTEM. WHILE WE  
REGRET MWUCIA'S LACK OF INTERST IN SUPPORTING THE CENTER

AT THIS TIME, AND INTERIM SOLUTION WOULD BE FOR ILLINOIS TO  
JOIN WITH INDIANA IN SUPPORTING THE CENTER. ILLINOIS ALREADY HAS  
A LECTURER EXCHANGE IN HISTORY WITH WARSAW U. PROFESSOR  
GIEYSZTOR, DIRECTOR OF WARSAW'S INSTITUTE OF HISTORY, TOLD RICHMOND  
AND GOSENDE THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO SHARE HIS ILLINOIS  
LECTURER WITH THE CENTER FOR AMERICAN STUDIES. UNDER THIS PROPOSAL  
THE ILLINOIS LECTURER WOULD GIVE THE U.S. HISTORY SURVEY COURSE  
AT THE CENTER AND CONDUCT THE SEMINAR FOR MASTERS' THESES AT THE  
INSTITUTE OF HISTORY. SINCE CU/EE IS FULLY FUNDING THE ILLINOIS-  
WARSAW EXCHANGE BOTH WAYS, BELIEVE WE ARE IN A GOOD POSITION  
TO URGE ILLINOIS TO JOIN WITH INDIANA IN SUPPORTING THE CENTER.  
THIS WOULD ADD THE RESOURCES OF ILLINOIS TO THOSE OF INDIANA  
AND CREATE A LARGER POOL FROM WHICH TO DRAW CANDIDATES FOR BOTH  
THE AMERICAN HISTORY LECTURER AND THE AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER  
DIRECTOR. HISTORIANS JELAVICH OF INDIANA AND HITCHENS OF ILLINOIS  
MAY BE ABLE TO HELP PERSUADE THEIR UNIVERSITIES TO JOIN FORCES.  
ADVISE.  
SCANLAN

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